

The City of Lewes



City Manager's Report June 2017

Renovations to the Margaret H. Rollins Community Center

Staff continued to work closely with the Use Committee, Lewes Historical Society, and Mark Chura to move forward with exterior maintenance, interior renovations to the City's meeting room, and the non-profit resource room. The non-profit resource room is now complete with literature racks filled with information about Lewes' local non-profit organizations, displays from Fort Miles and the Overfalls, and an interactive iPad kiosk. The meeting room is complete but still awaiting furniture.

Grant Applications

The Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation notified the City that, based on our pre-application review, we have been invited to apply for funding for the following projects through the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund Outdoor Recreation Park and Trail Grant Program. Grant applications are due in September.

1. American Legion Road Overlook – This would qualify for the trail grant and would be accepted as a portion of our match to the TAP project. The estimated cost of the overlook and associated parking is \$50,000. I submitted a request for \$25,000.
2. George H.P. Smith Park Playground – The City received a \$4,000 donation to replace the playground at George H.P. Smith Park. We removed some equipment recently, and the remainder of the playground equipment is very dated. I submitted a request for \$20,000, based on estimates that new playground equipment would cost approximately \$40,000.

Savannah Road TAP Project

Staff and the designated members of Council met with DelDOT on June 19th to discuss details of the cross-section of the roadway proposed by City Council. DelDOT has provided the proposed cross-section to the technical divisions within DelDOT for review. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for July 17th. Additional discussions transpired between City staff and DelDOT staff related to traffic counts and a survey questionnaire that will be completed the morning of July 8, 2017. In response to concerns expressed by some members of Council, City staff worked with DelDOT and Delaware Greenways to modify the survey.

Annexation Discussions

In response to discussions at the Annexation Review Committee, staff has participated in several meetings with property owners regarding potential annexation. Meetings have been held with Superintendent Robert Fulton of the Cape Henlopen School District and Chip Brittingham. In addition, staff have started meeting with members of the development/real estate community to gain feedback on what would make annexation attractive. A meeting was held on June 29, 2017 with Lingo Real Estate in this regard. Additional meetings are being scheduled. Tom West has started work on creation of a zoning district that would allow cluster development with densities similar to those of Sussex County. The benefits of cluster development include the ability to protect large areas of open space while clustering

development on a smaller portion of the land. Tom has also provided the committee with some scenarios of how many units various zoning approaches might yield on specific properties.

Legislative Activities

The Mayor, Councilperson Reardon, and the City Manager attended Legislative Hall on June 8, 2017, along with representatives of other municipalities across Delaware to show support for municipal governments. With the State's budget uncertainties, this was part of an effort to ensure that municipal budgets would not be adversely affected by decisions made to balance the State budget. On June 22, 2017, the Mayor and City Manager attended the League of Local Governments meeting where the League's lobbyist shared the status of legislative actions that could affect local governments. On June 30, 2017, the Mayor and City Manager attended what was expected to be the last night of the legislative session, along with representatives of other municipalities. The State ultimately passed its budget on Sunday, July 2, 2017, with no adverse effect on municipal budgets.

Mitigation Workshop

The Lewes Mitigation Planning Team hosted a FirstMap Presentation. The event was open to the public on June 27th at 7 PM. FirstMap is State of Delaware centralized repository for commonly used Geospatial data layers. Attendees were able to see FirstMap in operation and obtain information on how they can access the online system on their own using any internet connected device. Representatives from the State of Delaware Department of Technology and Information (DTI), the Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination (OSPC) and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) Coastal Programs were on hand to demonstrate the technology and discuss ways to use it to gather information or support planning initiatives, including preparing for storm events.

Phase 22 Street Program

The street improvements got underway. Crack sealing was completed on Bradley Avenue, Paynter Avenue, Houston Avenue, Milton Avenue, and Rehoboth Avenue. Massachusetts Avenue and Delmar Avenue were repaved. Patches were completed on Oceanview Boulevard, Canary Drive, and Harborview Road. McFee Street is a joint project of the City and the Board of Public Works, as it includes water system upgrades. These improvements are underway and should be complete the second week in July.

Other Meetings and Activities

The Fisher Martin House has some rotting floorboards and some wood rot on the rear door. A contractor has been hired to make the repairs.

On May 31, 2017, Chief Spell, Lieutenant Azato, and I met with staff from the State Fire Marshal's Office regarding concerns about illegal fireworks in Lewes on the July 4th holiday. Following the Assistant Fire Marshal sharing these same concerns with City Council, staff worked on a public relations campaign to discourage illegal firework use in the City of Lewes.

On June 26, 2017, Chief Spell and I met with Pastor Ross from St. Peter's Church to discuss procedures for parking for funerals at the church.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ann Marie Townshend, AICP
City Manager